

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-41 are pending in this case. No new matter is added.

By way of summary, the outstanding Official Action presents the following issues:

Claims 1-5, 13-15, 18-19, 22, 30, 33 and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan (U.S. Patent 5,828,754) in view of Sako et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0202082, hereinafter Sako); Claims 7-10 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako and in further view of Ido et al. (U.S. Patent 5,852,520, hereinafter Ido); Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako in view of Ido and in further view of Kurashina et al. (U.S. Patent 6,661,763, hereinafter Kurashina); Claims 20, 21 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako and in further view of Kurashina; Claims 23, 24, 27, 31-35 and 38-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako in further view of Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent 4,879,704, hereinafter Takagi); Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako, Kurashina and in further view of Yeo (U.S. Patent 6,521,781); Claims 6, 28, 29 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako and in further view of Yeo; and Claims 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hogan in view of Sako in view of Takagi and in further view of Yeo.

Applicants note that the Sako reference is applied in all of the outstanding rejections and qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as the present application filing date predates the publication date of Sako. As such, to the extent the rejections above apply to the present claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As Sako is §102(e) art, the obviousness rejection is deficient under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) as explained below.

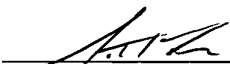
Applicants submit that the present application and the Sako reference were at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to Sony Corporation. Accordingly, application of the Sako reference in these obviousness rejections is improper.

As all the rejections of record rely on Sako, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are traversed as Sako may not be applied as a basis for supporting a *prima facie* case of obviousness as outlined by 35 U.S.C. §103(c).

Accordingly, the outstanding rejections are traversed and the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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